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## Book Reviews

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### THE EARLY DAYS OF JUDAISM

This is the general subject of the fourth volume of Professor Kent's "Historical Bible,"<sup>1</sup> which, in turn, is a popular abridgment of his "Student's Old Testament." The present book follows the course of Jewish history from the fall of Jerusalem in 586 to the death of Herod the Great in 4 B.C. Various phases in the life and history of the people are selected as captions under which to cite excerpts from the contemporary literature, and these are followed by explanatory notes of a historical, literary, or interpretative character. These explanatory paragraphs are designed to furnish a general acquaintance with the outlines of Jewish history as recorded in the later parts of the Old Testament literature, the apocryphal books, and some sections of Josephus' narratives. One may question whether it would not have been more helpful to dwell less upon mere events, and to tell the reader more of the real inner life of Judaism and more of the actual religious world in which the Jewish religion of the time was shaped. This volume, however, contains much valuable information presented in a form convenient for use in the study of an important period about which the ordinary Bible reader is not apt to be at all well informed.

SHIRLEY JACKSON CASE

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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### THE HEBREW PROPHETS

In a graded curriculum of Bible-study it has long been a question where the prophets should be placed. Some have sought to include them among the heroes of Israel at about the sixth grade of the public school. But it is impossible to ask such young students to read the difficult prophetic writings. The dominantly political and social character of the work of the prophets accords with the interest of students of the later high-school years. But for them also the material is exceedingly difficult to read. The composite character of the writings rendering large critical discrimination necessary, the want of chronological arrangement requiring a reordering of the various utterances of a given prophet,

<sup>1</sup> *The Makers and Teachers of Judaism, from the Fall of Jerusalem to the Death of Herod the Great.* By C. F. Kent. New York: Scribner, 1911. Pp. xiii+323. \$1.00.